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PCC promises funds for crime reduction initiatives

HANTS' TOP COP IN £2.3M PLEDGE

Chineham slimming guru is celebrating after landing top gong - see page 8

HAMPSHIRE'S senior police figure has pledged an extra £2.3million funding boost for crime reduction and victim support initiatives in Basingstoke and throughout the county.

By **James Booker**
news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

Simon Hayes, Hampshire's Police and Crime Commissioner, approved the plans on Tuesday. Funding decisions will be made on grounds of submission quality and the ability to respond to the Commissioning Plan produced by Mr Hayes in January, and if the organisation clearly shows the potential impact of the funds.

Mr Hayes said: "As a result of the Commissioning Plan, I am optimistic that a greater focus and investment in partnership-working will 'protect people and places' by preventing crime and ensuring the experiences of victims and witnesses are acknowledged and acted upon."

Mr Hayes added he wants to strengthen communities by bringing more partnerships working together in various drives, as well as providing continued stable funding that will bring tangible benefits to the communities of Basingstoke and Deane and throughout Hampshire.

Organisations that have successfully secured funding include Southern Domestic Abuse, which aims to support people affect by domestic abuse so that they have the strength to stop the pattern of abuse and provide a male mentoring scheme.

The Saint's Foundation's Saints Connect, which work with young people to prevent offending and re-offending has also benefited, as has funding a mental health worker at Safer New Forest's Community Safety Partnership.

Spurgeon's Invisible Walls Family Support Service; Aurora New Dawn, which provides support for people affected by stalking; Footprints Project, which mentors men and women who are leaving prison or serving a community sentence in Dorset, Somerset and Hampshire area and Hampshire Youth Offending Team, which operates a highly rated crime preventions scheme, were also chosen.

Community Safety Funding has been agreed for a range of projects run by organisations with a strong track-record for delivering services that improve outcomes for the victims and witnesses of crime; prevent offending and reoffending; provide support and mentoring opportunities; and facilitate contact between children and their families.

The Commissioner has also launched an Innovation Grant to encourage new creative thinking and ideas, for which many applications have been received and are now being funded.

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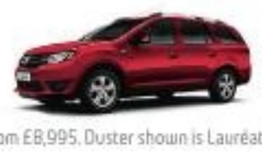
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Reynaldo hopes to learn from loss

BASINGSTOKE cricketer Dan Reynaldo is urging his England teammates to learn from their mistakes after suffering a second successive tour loss at the hands of Pakistan last month.

By **James Booker**
news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

The 18-year-old off-spinner was part of a 15-strong England Physical Disability squad in Dubai last month for a six-match Twenty20 and One Day International series with Pakistan.

And, although Reynaldo and England put up a strong fight at the ICC Global Cricket Academy, they ultimately left with a sour taste in their mouths as they lost both series 2-1.

Despite losing 4-2 overall, it was still an improvement on their maiden tour to Dubai to play Pakistan in 2012 when England's squad, which included Reynaldo, arrived home having suffered a 4-1 defeat.

However this was of little consolation to Reynaldo, who insists he and his teammates should have had more to show for their efforts in the United Arab Emirates.

"The whole tour was great, obviously it would have been better having finished with a series win but we couldn't quite manage it," said the Basingstoke College of Technology pupil.

"All three of the Twenty20s were really close but similar to last time when we played Pakistan; they took themselves over the edge while we couldn't.

"We feel like we should have won more games than we actually did and we left a lot of scores out there which was frustrating.

"But we are still a relatively young bunch of guys and a young team so I am sure we will learn from this and we have to if we want to improve.

"We have shown what we can do and this is only our second tour so I am sure that we have plenty we can build on and that is exciting."

England were in with a shout of winning both the Twenty20 and One Day International series' – pulling level at 1-1 in each before losing the deciding match.

And Reynaldo is adamant with fellow teenager Alex Hammond scoring two half-centuries on the tour England have a player that they can build the team around.

"The one player that stood out for me on the tour was one of the six new guys and that was Alex Hammond," he added.

"I had played with him before and I knew he had talent."

· Dan Reynaldo and his England team-mates

News Bites

It's my business

SMALL Business Saturday will return to communities in Hampshire later this year, to promote independent companies in the region.

It is set to take place on December 6, and encourages consumers to 'shop local' and support their communities, as well as giving businesses the opportunity to gain visibility and promotion.

Prime Minister David Cameron said: "Small Business Saturday is a vital reminder that we need to celebrate small businesses not just on one day, but all year round."

Research begins

BASINGSTOKE and Deane Borough Council is conducting health and wellbeing research during April and May, to help residents in leading a healthy lifestyle.

Together with Hart District Council, they will be looking at different health issues including physical activity, mental wellbeing and drinking habits.

Research will be conducted through a number of door to door interviews in the early evenings and weekends, and will take no longer than 10 minutes.

Health grants

HART District Council have been awarded a grant of £86,000, to fund four health and wellbeing projects in the area.

The projects include cookery classes for the over 55s, promotion of the Hampshire Health Eating award, investigating the wellbeing of travellers and a campaign to promote volunteering.

Cllr Anne Crampton said: "We are delighted that we have been successful with four bids and secured funding to undertake projects that will benefit the whole of Hampshire."

Anti-scam pack up for top prize

A RESOURCE pack produced by Hampshire County Council to help people avoid being the victims of scams and rogue traders has been shortlisted for the National Learning Disability awards.

The Making Money Matter booklet contains information to help protect adults with learning disabilities from becoming victims of scams and rogue doorstep callers.

It also aims to help people understand their rights as consumers when buying goods or having work done in their homes.

The pack has been shortlisted as a potential winner in the 'Accessibility' category which celebrates individuals or organisations that have worked to make sure people get clear information.

Councillor Liz Fairhurst, executive member for Adult Social Care and Public Health, said: "In Hampshire there are an estimated 14,000 adults with learning disabilities and we want to enable as many as possible, to live as independently as possible.

"'Making Money Matters' helps us to achieve this by providing information in an easy to access format that can arm vulnerable people with the information they need to prevent them from falling victim to scams and rogue traders."

Judging for the awards takes place in April with the awards ceremony being held in May.

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Tel: Lizi 07771 346702

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Elizabeth Hall
Raven Road
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Tel: Jo 07515 719190

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Fort Hill Community School
Kenilworth Road
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Tel: Tina 07810 147400

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Westside Community Centre
Paddock Road
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Tel: Kirsty 07843 276953

Overton
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Bramley Village hall, The Street
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Ambrose Allen Centre,
Franklin Avenue
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Popley
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Melrose Hall, Abbey Road
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Six in court over unpaid tax bills

Council says action was a last resort move

THE borough council has taken six people to court over unpaid tax bills of over £61,000.

It was the first committal order for non-payment of council tax in the borough in over 13 years.

One man received a jail sentence of 35 days, but this has been suspended providing he pays back £150 per day of bills owed.

By **James Booker**
news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

Five more cases are due before Basingstoke Magistrates' Court on April 10.

BDBC's property and finance chief, Cllr John Izett, said the action was 'a last resort'.

"It is the second time these cases have been taken to court with liability orders issued at previous hearings.

"We make every effort as a council to give help and advice to those of our residents who find themselves in difficulty paying their council tax bills.

"Since taking this action the council has received some large payments from residents who have not communicated or not paid their council tax for years.

"Over 98 per cent of our residents pay their council tax on time but there are a few who persistently fail to pay on time for the services they depend upon from this council.

"This is unfair on those residents who do pay on time."

The council encourages anyone who is having difficulty in paying their council tax bill to make early contact with the borough council's local tax team on 01256 358555.

Students 'want to work' in Basingstoke

DESTINATION Basingstoke attended a graduate recruitment fair at Oxford Brookes University last week to encourage students to consider working for companies in the Basingstoke area.

The fair was very successful with 100 per cent of all the students polled saying they would be happy to move to the town, expressing an interest in working for 50 different companies based here.

The initiative is a new project for Destination Basingstoke, the not-for-profit company that works to promote the town.

"Having talked to a number of businesses it seems that some organisations are finding it difficult to recruit quality graduates to their businesses," said Felicity Edwards, managing director of Destination Basingstoke.

"We want to help them get access to the cream of the crop of the 2014 graduates.

"And at the same time we get a fantastic opportunity to tell talented young people about the opportunities and great quality of life they can expect if they live and work in Basingstoke."

Destination Basingstoke will be attending careers fairs across the region over the next few months, including those at Surrey, Bournemouth and Portsmouth Universities.

Find us on Twitter @BasingstokeNews

CCTV images released after man is assaulted

BASINGSTOKE Police have released CCTV images after a man was left with a broken jaw following an attack in the town centre.

The 27-year-old victim, along with another man, was assaulted at around 3.20am on March 16 in the alleyway between Winchester Street and Joices Yard.

A 17-year-old man from Basingstoke is on police bail.

Investigating officer, DC Dan Leese, said: "We believe the people from the CCTV images may have witnessed a serious assault.

"Is this you or someone you know? Were you the driver of the vehicle that was parked at the top of Joices Yard?

"Did you see or hear anything suspicious? This assault happened in the town centre and close to a busy taxi rank.

"We are really keen to speak to you, please contact us with any information."

The CCTV images were taken at 3.24am.

• Were you in the area at the time of the assault?

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Police pledge to end area's domestic abuse

A SENIOR Hampshire cop has outlined the force's commitment to eradicating domestic violence.

In September, the Home Secretary Theresa May commissioned HMIC to conduct an inspection of all police forces across the UK, which focussed solely on issues surrounding domestic violence.

The report found that front line officers in Hampshire have received specific domestic abuse training and there is emphasis on making sure that victims are safe.

Superintendent Ben Snuggs said: "The force is working to improve how it can better identify repeat victims through its IT systems.

"More information on serial domestic abuse perpetrators will also be provided to local officers, so that they can help to deal with these offenders effectively and help to reduce the risk to victims.

"The report has also highlighted a number of areas where we can further strengthen our response to domestic abuse.

"We will provide even more extensive training to local investigators and will ensure that the quality of investigation on scene is of the highest standard possible.

"While we recognise that high risk victims of domestic abuse receive a good level of service in Hampshire, improvements will continue to be made to address people involved in incidents assessed as standard risk."

Hampshire's Police and Crime Commissioner, Simon Hayes, added: "The report also highlights some areas that require further attention and where the force can improve its response.

"It is important that we acknowledge these areas for improvement and I will work closely with the Chief Constable to ensure the force delivers on the recommendations from the report.

"I believe partnership working is crucial to tackling domestic abuse and, through my Commissioning Plan, I have supported the activities of partners from across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight who have significant expertise in this field.

"It is also positive to see the report highlight the good working relationships the force has with partners already.

"I am confident that we are moving in the right direction when it comes to supporting victims."

By **James Booker**
news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

Charity rings in celebrations

A BASINGSTOKE charity dedicated to improving the lives of children on the sub continent has rung in 15 years of being in business.

CHILD's Trust celebrated the landmark achievement after Mark and Julie Thomas set up the charity in 1999 following a visit to India.

Hundreds of children in India and Bangladesh are now leading improved lives due to the work of the charity.

Celebrations took place at Buckskin Evangelical Church on the Saturday and Sunday with over 130 people coming on each day. People could also go to find out more about the charity and the work that has been achieved over the past 15 years, as well as enjoying a whole host of Indian delicacies.

And Councillor Dan Putty, Mayor of Basingstoke and Deane, also dropped in to lend his support on the day.

For more information about the charity, call 01256 324328.

Pair attack man, 23, in Popley road

POLICE are appealing for witnesses after a man was robbed in Popley on Friday.

The 23-year-old victim was punched in the face by two attackers as he was on Melrose Walk at around 10am.

He was struck after the offenders stole £120 from him. They were last seen heading towards Abbey Road shops.

Detective Constable Andy Panter from Basingstoke CID said: "Were you in the area at the time of this incident and did you see anything that may assist with our investigation?

"Perhaps you witnessed the incident itself or saw two men matching the description of the offenders in the area."

The first attacker is of mixed race, in his late 20s and of slim build.

He had very short black hair, is around 6ft tall and was wearing a black Adidas tracksuit.

The second offender is white, also in his late 20s with short mousey brown hair. He is of athletic build, 5ft 10ins and was wearing stonewash blue jeans, a black T-shirt and a black sports jacket.

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Fleet Pond project gets further backing

A BOOST to the on-going Fleet Pond Restoration Project funding, through national initiatives, has recently been secured, extending the benefits of the work underway in spring 2014.

By **James Booker**
news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

This new phase of the Fleet Pond Restoration Project includes dredging in Fugelmere Bay, using the silt to extend Brookly Reedbed.

A new reed bed pool will also be created to receive flood water from the Brookly Stream, providing a silt trapping function and many habitat opportunities for plants, insects and other aquatic animals associated with the Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

To create the new pool, reed turfs will be removed and transplanted to some of the other islands to colonise.

This will provide plenty of reed bed habitats and encourage birds such as Bittern, Reed Bunting and Reed Warblers to nest near the pond.

Thirty-five fish exclusion cages will also be installed to create a suitable environment for zooplankton, tiny animals that live near the surface in lakes and ponds.

A healthy zooplankton community will reduce algae dominance, improve water quality and produce more opportunities for aquatic plants, which in turn provide cover for fish and aquatic insects, produces oxygen, and acts as food source for some wildlife.

Cllr Sara Kinnell, Hart District Council portfolio holder for Leisure and Environmental Promotion, said: "This funding will allow us to improve the quality of the pond for the wonderful wildlife that relies on it.

"I wish to thank our partners Natural England, John's Associates and WM Longreach for all their hard work on this project"

This funding has been provided from Natural England's Conservation and Enhancement Scheme.

The award-winning Fleet Pond Restoration Project has resulted from 15 years of planning by Hart District Council and the Fleet Pond Society in partnership with Natural England, the Environment Agency, John's Associates and the Ministry of Defence.

Find us on Twitter @BasingstokeNews

Stores do a little bit extra for a good cause

BASINGSTOKE'S two Sainsbury's stores (The Malls and Kempshott) went the extra mile in their fundraising for Sport Relief, raising over £18,000.

It comes after the retailer announced a fundraising total of over £6.5m, making it the biggest corporate donation on the night and £1m higher than the retailer's support from the 2012 campaign.

Customers and colleagues got behind the two Sainsbury's stores' fundraising activities for this year's Sport Relief.

Colleagues took part in fundraising activities between March 21 and 23.

The store teams were also collecting customer donations at the Basingstoke stores during a colleague flash-mob performance of Black Lace's '70s dance number 'Superman'.

It was part of a nationwide flash mob across all Sainsbury's stores to help generate further funds for Sport Relief.

Chief Executive Justin King said: "I'm proud to announce this year marks our biggest fundraising for Sport Relief, raising over £6.5m for the charity."

Sainsbury's store manager Paul Beesley added: "I'd like to thank all our customers who made a donation to Sport Relief, whether through buying this year's merchandise or making a donation to one of our Sport Relief fundraising events in-store.

"Our customers and colleagues certainly made a winning Sport Relief team and we're delighted to have raised over £18,000, which will help transform lives in the UK and across the world".

Miller meets train chiefs over plans

BASINGSTOKE MP Maria Miller has urged train authorities to improve plans for commuters in Basingstoke.

Mrs Miller recently met with officials from the Network Rail - South West Trains Alliance and emphasised the importance of ensuring that Basingstoke rail users benefit from improvements over the next three years and beyond.

Overcrowding was the main talking point of the meeting – Mrs Miller's office said officials admitted the busiest peak hour trains are running up to 140 per cent of capacity (100 per cent being all seats are taken).

Network Rail – South West Trains confirmed that they had plans up to 2017 to improve reliability and increase capacity on services from Basingstoke to London Waterloo.

This included bringing the Waterloo International platforms back into use during the course of 2014, which would reduce congestion outside the station by increasing the number of platforms available for mainline use; better use of signalling to get more trains through; and introducing 10 car trains on the route through Basingstoke.

Maria said: "I was pleased to hear that there are plans in place to improve the service for Basingstoke rail users, but it is clear that some of these will take some time to be delivered. Demand will continue to rise, particularly given the high levels of housebuilding, so it is important to keep up the pressure for improvements."

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News Bites

Acting F.A.S.T.

HAMPSHIRE County Council (HCC) is lending its support to the nationwide 'Act F.A.S.T.' campaign – raising awareness of the signs of a stroke.

Over 1,300 Hampshire residents are admitted to hospital suffering a stroke each year, with 60 per cent of these under 75.

F.A.S.T. challenges people to spot the signs a stroke might be occurring: Face (has their face fallen to one side?), Arms (can they raise both and keep them there?), Speech (is it slurred?) and Time (to call 999). Councillor Liz Fairhurst, executive member for Adult Services and Public Health said: "It is important that all of us are aware of the symptoms of stroke so we can act immediately."

Police appeal

POLICE in Basingstoke are urging witnesses to come forward after a 48-year-old man was attacked by three men on March 22.

At around 8pm, the victim was punched in the face and kicked in the back while walking on Doswell Way.

The victim was left with bruises and grazes to his face and back, and an injury to his abdomen.

The chief attacker is described as white, aged 18-25, 5ft 9ins, of muscular build with short hair and stubble. He was wearing grey tracksuit trousers and a sweatshirt. The second suspect was also white and was wearing a dark hooded top and tracksuit bottoms. A description of the third suspect is not available.

Have Faith in me!

A WEIGHT-LOSS expert from Chineham has won a special award for her work in helping people in the area shed unwanted pounds.

Faith Howard, who runs the Chineham Slimming World groups, has been given the 'Silver' status by the national slimming club because of her success in supporting slimmers reach their target weight.

The accolade is awarded to Slimming World Consultants who have 100 members or more in their group come back week after week.

It is the second time Faith has been awarded the prize since becoming a consultant in April 2004.

By **James Booker**
news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

"I am delighted to have received the 'Silver' award again for the Chineham group," she said.

"I feel passionately about helping people to transform their lives by losing weight in the same way that I did when I lost three stone with Slimming World in 2002/3.

"Losing weight made me feel happier as well as healthier and gave me so much more confidence.

"I became a consultant because I wanted to share that feeling and help other people to achieve the same success I had myself.

"Seeing the members in my groups – mums, dads, grandmas and young people too – reach their target weight is so rewarding and receiving this award is just the icing on the cake.

"This award belongs to the Chineham morning group's 125 members.

"They're the ones who make our group the success that it is, with their fabulous commitment, the wonderful support they give each other every week, and, obviously, their impressive weight losses while following Slimming World's Food Optimising eating plan.

"It's never been more important that overweight people get the support to make changes to and lead healthier lives – both for themselves and the future generations, their children, too."

"I'm over the moon to have become a Silver Consultant and now I'm going for Gold."

To join the Chineham group, which is held every Thursday at 9.30am and 11.30am at Chineham Village Hall and 5.30pm and 7.30pm at Christ Church, Reading Road, call 01256 811575 or 07966 933994.

· Faith Howard with attendees of Chineham Slimming World group

Grant relief available after floods

PEOPLE and businesses in Basingstoke and across Hampshire, who have been severely affected by the winter floods, can apply for £5,000 grants in helping them get back on their feet.

The government's 'Repair and Renew' grant is available to residents whose houses were affected by flooding between December 1 and last Monday (March 31).

Buckskin was one of the worst-affected areas of the borough, with dozens of people forced to be evacuated from their homes.

Businesses and charities can also claim where day to day business was affected by flooding of their premises during the same period.

Applications should be made to Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council (BDBC).

Those considering applying are advised to check on the National Flood Forum'sProperty Protection Advisor so see what measures might be needed in their particular case, and what these might cost. Visit www.hants.gov.uk for more information.

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News Bites

Food festival

LONDON Street in Basingstoke is set to host the first of two Eat Street food festivals in the town.

The Top of the Town event, organised and funded by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council and Destination Basingstoke, takes place on April 12 from 11am until 3pm ahead of Festival Place's annual food fair a week later.

Basingstoke's restaurants will open their doors to cook international cuisine and demonstrate the tricks of their trade al fresco.

Destination Basingstoke's managing director Felicity Edwards said: "This is the first time anything like this has happened and we hope it will encourage more cooperation between local businesses and a better understanding of what they each have to offer.

"It will be lot of fun and is a great way to try lots of different food from around the world."

Start raising charity funds

BASINGSTOKE schools and colleges are this month being asked to host a variety of fundraising activities in aid of charity.

Bibic, which helps children with conditions affecting their social, communication and learning abilities, is encouraging schools and colleges to fundraise for it.

Geoff Cummins, Bibic chief executive, said: "We know schools and colleges often raise money for charity so we're asking them to consider Bibic when choosing who to donate to."

Queen of shops for Top of Town

BASINGSTOKE and Deane Borough Council (BDBC) has enlisted the services of a 'Queen of Shops' style retail guru, in order to give the town centre a boost.

By **James Booker**
news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

BDBC has appointed Sally Williams in order to help advertise independent businesses in the Top of the Town.

Ms Williams is a director of Retail Revival, and will meet independent business owners in the area to develop a pilot training and retail support scheme.

BDBC has enlisted her help as part of its Town Centre Programme and the support given to the Top of the Town retailers includes marketing, visual displays, sales techniques and finding new customers.

She will then design a pilot programme of business support and training.

Deputy leader Cllr Ranil Jayawardena said: "Our vision for Top of the Town aims to give the historic heart of Basingstoke a more clearly defined role as the independent and specialist part of the town centre.

"We want to attract more people to come to the area for a different experience of shopping, dining or meeting friends, to keep the smaller traders thriving.

"We are demonstrating our support for small businesses and providing them with the tools they need to thrive, especially against competition from online shopping."

Stay vigilant on hoax call dangers...

RESIDENTS are being warned of the dangers of hoax calls, after reports surfaced of calls being made claiming to be a police officer.

Hampshire County Council's Trading Standards officers are warning residents to be alert, with the hoax caller asking questions about home security and personal circumstances.

Attempts are also made to book appointments for home visits to discuss police burglar alarms or loft insulation.

A county council statement said: "Trading Standards would advise consumers never to give out personal details over the phone, and not to entertain visits from callers who make unsolicited telephone calls.

"The police do not sell burglar alarms or loft insulation, and will not operate in this way.

"The advice is not to get into conversation with this type of caller which includes similar telephone calls from 'Banks'.

"Instead, we advise you should report the matter to Trading Standards, via the Citizens Advice Consumer Service on 08454 04 05 06, or to Hampshire Police on their non-urgent number 101.

"Trading Standards would advise consumers not to agree to work that is instigated as a result of a cold call or via a leaflet drop."

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News Bites

Feeling lucky?

ST MICHAEL'S Hospice has announced the winners of its latest lottery draw from March 28.

First prize of £1,000 goes to ticket 17995 of Baughurst, while ticket 54374, also of Baughurst, claims second prize of £100.

Third prize of £50 goes to Basingstoke ticket 20628, and Tadley ticket 25953 gets fourth prize of £20.

Sixteen prizes of £5 go to tickets 04910, 08643, 10146, 12416, 19973, 23835, 27497, 41312, 49624, 59306, 59662, 62504, 69326, 79325, 81396 and 95216.

Come on inside!

A HOOK manor house is set to open its doors to the public next month.

People can visit the gardens of Tylney Hall between May 16 and 18 as part of the Garden Appreciation weekend.

Guests will also be able to enjoy an enchanting picnic lunch on Saturday as well as use of the hall's leisure facilities.

School success

HOOK'S Robert May's School are celebrating after clinching top prize in the recent Girls in Engineering challenge day at AWE Aldermaston.

The school was one of seven establishments to take part in the day, and were crowned 'best school' after three rounds of design challenges.

Philip Cain, the school's head of technology, said: "This was our first time attending this event and I think it was fantastic."

'Village agents' to help elderly and vulnerable

OLDER people living in rural areas in Basingstoke and Deane are set to be part of a county-wide support initiative, that will see the expansion of 'village agents'.

By **James Booker**
news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

Odiham, Overton and Whitchurch are three of 23 Hampshire villages involved in the move by the county council.

Volunteer agents help older and more vulnerable residents in providing advice and support on issues such as transportation, isolation and loneliness.

HCC leader, Councillor Roy Perry, said: "With 85 per cent of Hampshire being rural, we need a strategy that helps rural areas thrive and flourish.

"The population in rural Hampshire is ageing faster than the county as a whole, creating higher demand for our services.

"Through effective collaboration with our partners, we are ensuring that resource is targeted to where it is needed the most and delivered in the most cost-effective way.

"The county council provides support to rural communities in various ways; from grants to making village halls more accessible, to helping village shops to expand their businesses, and the invaluable support of village agents in helping more vulnerable residents in our communities."

HCC's cabinet agreed to inject £400,000 for the next year to help fund the scheme at its latest meeting on March 24.

This includes support for small community grants in the next financial year.

The cabinet also agreed to provide further support for rural communities to tailor their existing transport options to better meet the needs of residents without cars, with additional support for self-help and volunteering.

It also proposed to strengthen ties with the church and other religious organisations.

HCC has also made available a total of up to £15m to enable the superfast broadband market to be extended to 95 per cent of premises by the end of 2017.

Do you have a story to share with our readers?
Contact the Newsdesk on **01235 516930**
or email **news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk**

Hart Council rewards community activists

A LOCAL council has donated £125 each to individuals and groups that have been seen to make a difference in their community.

Hart District Council's Chairman's Award Scheme saw district authority chief, Cllr Stephen Gorys, present the groups with the thanks and cheques at a meeting on March 27.

The Twofold Trust in Odiham, Fleet's Falkners Arms and 6th Fleet Scouts were all honoured, as well as Mary Saunders for her community work in Long Sutton.

Cllr Gorys said: "Once again we have a range of worthy winners of my Award scheme.

"They reflect the variety of good community spirit that is evident in Hart and I am grateful that I am able to thank them for all the help they give back to the community."

If you know people in the district who are deserving of such recognition, contact 01252 815652 or visit www.hartvolaction.org.uk for an application form or to find out more information.

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• *Guitarist Ben Poole is playing at the Basingstoke Blues Club*

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Unseen talent

CENTRAL Studio is host to the best of Hampshire's musical talent on Saturday, as Live and Unsigned aims to give new artists a true gig experience.

Four-piece guitar band Manseti are the headline act, as they perform a mix of covers from bands including The Killers, Foo Fighters, Snow Patrol and many more.

The show starts at 7pm, and tickets cost £5.

Rita Hosking

AMERICAN composer and musician Rita Hosking performs at The Forge on Tuesday, with her style of original mountain roots music and soulful ballads.

Rita's 2009 album 'Come Sunrise' launched her onto the national Americana scene, and spent four months in the US Folk chart top-20.

Tap Factory

RENOWNED musicians and dancers from across the world come to The Anvil tomorrow night, in a performance of the dance production Tap Factory.

Performers will blend the art of percussion with dance and acrobatics in an eclectic mix of skill, poetry and humour, accompanied by a live band. It starts at 7.45pm.

Ben: 'It's not just blues'

BLUES guitarist Ben Poole brings his spring tour to Basingstoke on Saturday, as he prepares to record his new album due to be released later this year.

By **Adam Flinn**
adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

Ben and his four-piece band will play a range of their music including from the debut release 'Let's Go Upstairs', as well as new material that could feature on the upcoming album.

He has previously been nominated at the 2011 British Blues Awards and also represented the UK at the 2012 European Blues Challenge in Berlin, where he came third out of 19 entries.

And in the last few years, Ben has been touring heavily across the globe, where he has found critical acclaim in the Netherlands, Switzerland and Germany.

"I've branched out into other territories because it's quite difficult in the UK, but I do well in those places," Ben said.

"When people try and put me in a box they usually say blues, but it's not just blues. There are elements of rock and pop, kind of a modern twist on the blues genre really.

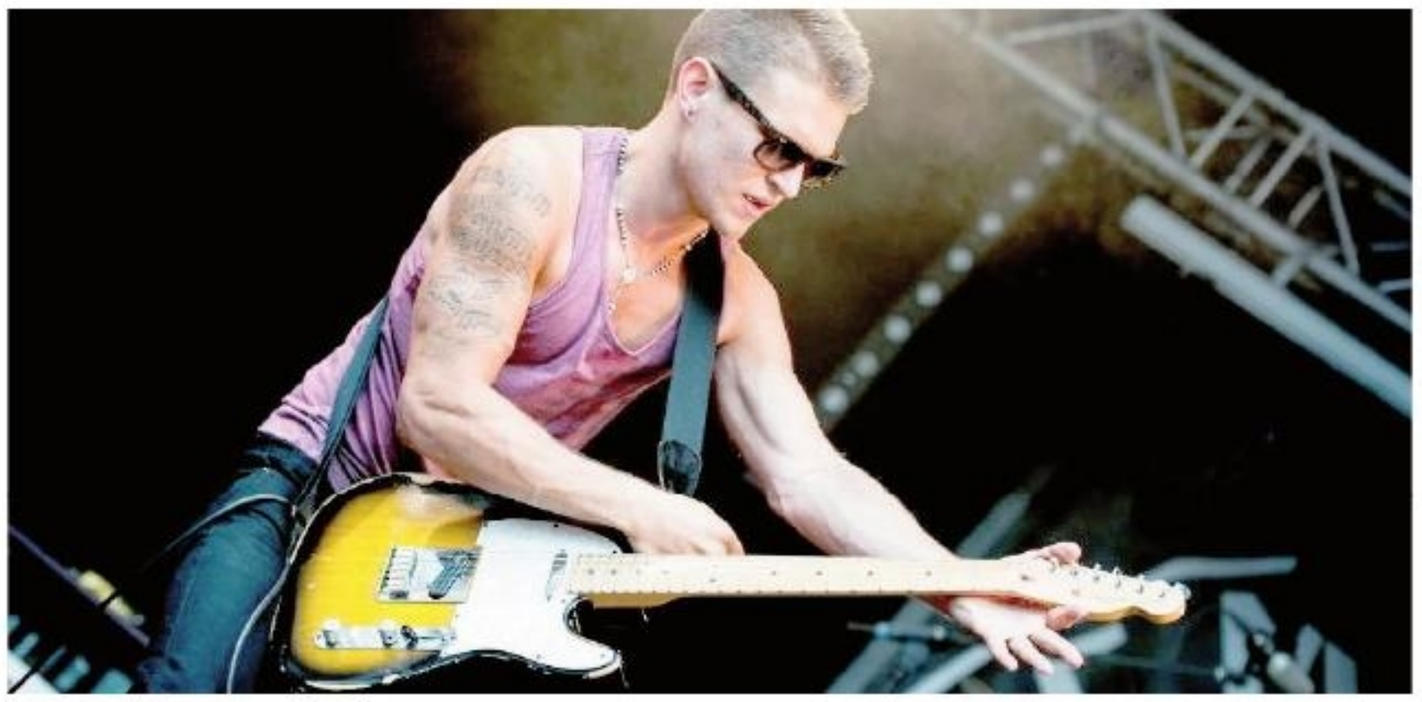
"It's very guitar-based, and more and more of my own stuff is coming into the set these days."

This show will see a selection of songs that could feature on the new album, which Ben says will be slightly different to 'Let's Go Upstairs'.

"For the last album I really concentrated on the song-writing side of things and maybe lost a little bit of the guitar element, so we're trying to bring that back a little bit," he said.

"I've always been known as a guitar player, but it's trying to be recognised as more than just that which is a constant battle."

Ben performs at the Basingstoke Blues Club, at the Moose Centre, on Saturday from 7.30pm.



• *Ben Poole (Pic: Marco Van Rooijen)*

Laughs galore

THE Bordon Phoenix Comedy Club returns for a new season this evening, featuring three comedians and resident compere Dan Evans.

April's comics are former full-time snooker player Sean Meo, podcaster and blooger Paul B Edwards, and actress and voice-over artist Wendy Wason.

It starts at 8pm, and more details can be found at www.phoenixarts.co.uk.

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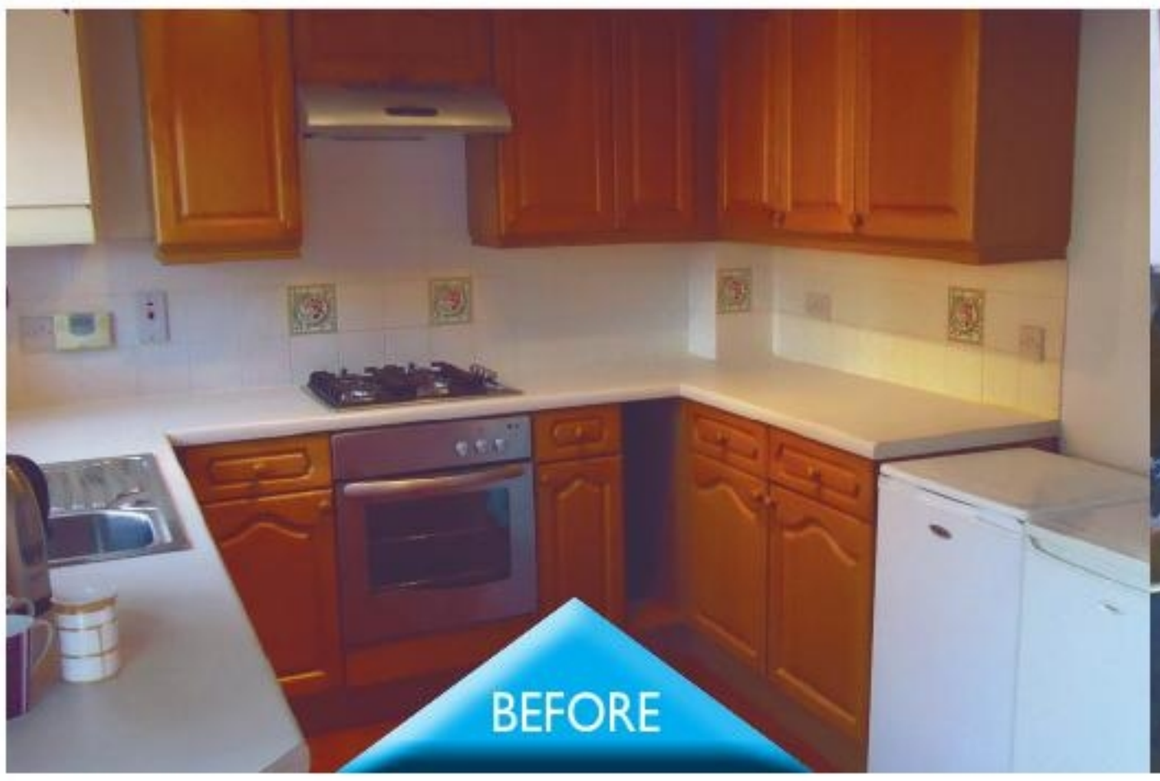

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*Terms and conditions apply. See website for details.

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Peter Howarth

PETER Howarth, lead singer with The Hollies and long-time backing vocalist with Cliff Richard, is performing his solo show 'Unplugged' at The Forge tomorrow evening.

He has been playing the guitar since the age of seven and joined The Hollies in 2004, recording the albums 'Staying Power', 'Then, Now and Always' and 'We Got The Tunes' with the group.

Peter Stanford

AUTHOR Peter Stanford gives a talk about his book 'How to Read a Graveyard', a story of unpromising exploration, at the Basingstoke Discovery Centre this evening.

Tickets must be booked in advance for the talk, starting at 7pm. Call 01256 478670.

Alvin Sputnik

AUDIENCES are invited to take a journey through the deepest dark blue sea, as they follow the adventures of Alvin Sputnik at the Bordon Phoenix on Saturday.

Alvin is the Earth's only hope following the rising of the seas, and must venture to the bottom of the ocean to find his wife's lost soul and save humanity.

The show begins at 6pm, visit www.phoenixarts.co.uk.

Town's Bootleg-mania!

RECREATING the iconic music of John, Paul, George and Ringo, The Bootleg Beatles perform their new show at The Anvil on Tuesday.

Tomorrow marks 50 years since The Beatles achieved the amazing feat of having five records fill the top five places in the US charts, and their music has remained popular ever since.

And to mark the occasion, The Bootleg Beatles will be playing a range of renowned hits from an extensive back catalogue.

By **Adam Flinn**
adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

Andre Barreau takes on the role of George Harrison for this tour, and has been with the group since its beginnings in 1980.

"We're going to do a lot of material we've never done before with all new songs, which is always a great thing," Andre said. Everyone who has done the roles over the years has had different vocal ranges, so we're able to do songs that didn't suit some of our other members in the past.

"The set will be four parts from different eras going through chronologically, and all the normal revelry and fun I hope!"

Even though he has performed the music of The Beatles as George Harrison for over 30 years, Andre hasn't tired of the songs and still enjoys playing and listening to them.

He added: "It's just brilliant music to perform. I think anyone who is forming a group will always do some Beatles song, even if it's a version.

"The bass lines are great, the guitar parts from George are fantastic, and they're so wonderfully constructed that they bear playing again and again.

"And people want to hear these songs. Nobody rolls their eyes when you start 'Eight Days a Week', they say 'great, I love this song'. It's just such joyful music."

Tuesday's show starts at 8pm, and tickets cost £28.50.

• Steve White, Andre Barreau, Hugo Degenhardt and Adam Hasting are The Bootleg Beatles

Vintage fair at the Proteus

THE Proteus Creation Space is host to a vintage fair on Saturday, with classic gifts and homemade crafts all set to be available.

As well as being able to browse the various stalls, visitors can also enjoy refreshments from the café.

It runs from 1pm to 4pm, and entry is free.

Avoiding social events?

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- Return flights from Gatwick airport†; outbound to Prague and return from Budapest
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- Coach transfer from Prague to Vienna, and transfer by train from Vienna to Budapest
- 3 nights' stay at the 4 star Hotel Century Old Town, Prague with breakfast
- 2 nights' stay at the 4 star Courtyard by Marriott, Vienna Messe with breakfast
- 2 nights' stay at the 4 star Lion's Garden Hotel, Budapest with breakfast
- 3 lunches and 4 dinners, including a Folklore Show with dinner in Prague and a Dinner Cruise on the River Danube in Budapest
- All excursions as detailed in the itinerary
- Admission to Prague Castle (including St Vitus' Cathedral and St George's Basilica); the Hofburg Imperial Palace and Schönbrunn Palace (Vienna); Matthias Church, the Fisherman's Bastion and The Statue Park (Budapest)

Organised by Omega Holidays. ABTA V4782. ATOL Protected 6081. Single supplements apply. Subject to availability. †We have included a reasonable budget for your flights. Should the cost of these fall below or rise above this amount we will amend the holiday cost to reflect these changes and therefore the price may increase or decrease accordingly. The final price will be confirmed at the time of booking. The advertised price is correct as of 30 December 2013 and is based upon departure from Gatwick airport on 7 August 2014.

For more information or to book, please call:
01539 751252 quote BOB
or visit: **www.basingstokeobserver.reader.travel**

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SUN 10.00 - 15.00

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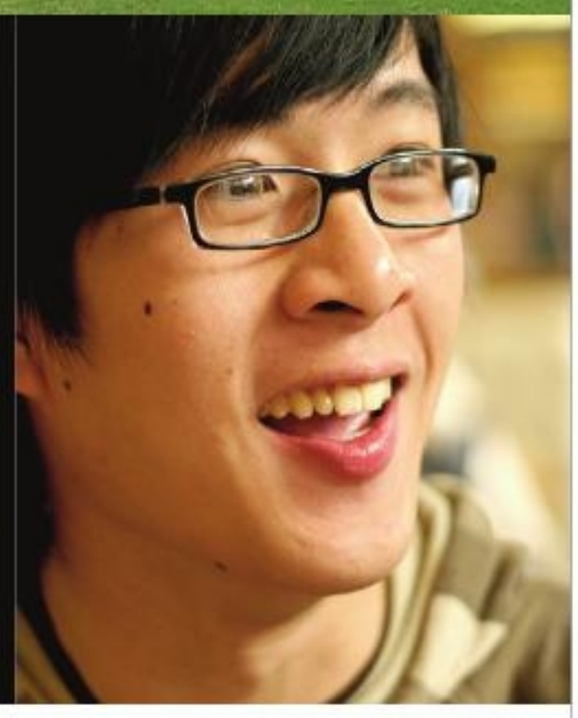

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What's on in HAMPSHIRE | LISTINGS

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17 Mar - 28 Apr, 12am - 11:59pm
Irish Centre, Council Road, Basingstoke
BISHOP CHALLONER CLASS OF 84, 30 YEAR REUNION
Saturday 3 May
From 730pm
RSVP Ally Streeter (Toner)"
streeter662@btinternet.com

3 Apr, 7:45pm
The Anvil
WE'VE ONLY JUST BEGUN
A celebration of the music of The Carpenters and the spirit of Karen Carpenter.
01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

4 Apr, 7:45pm
The Anvil
TAP FACTORY
Thisamazing spectacular features a live percussion band and gorgeous male dancers to set your pulses racing. Tremendously visual and highly exciting, Tap Factory blends the art of percussion with dance and acrobatics in an eclectic mix of skill, poetry and humour.
01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

5 Apr, 7:45pm
The Anvil
ORCHESTRA OF THE AGE OF ENLIGHTENMENT
"Beethoven's Seventh Symphony. The thrilling roller-coaster ride is made up of four movements which have a joyous energy and rhythmic impetus, generating enormous power.
Followed by Schubert's epic last symphony, number nine. A supremely lyrical and imaginative work; the four movements are built on a grand scale and the musical architecture is handled with great care, yet the whole piece unfurls in one majestic sweep."
01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

5 Apr, 7:30pm - 11:45pm
Crown Lane, Old Basing
BAND NIGHT WITH BERNIE WOODS & THE FOREST FIRES
plus DJ Stompin' Steve. Membership Drive, New Members Welcome. 7:30pm till 11:45pm
7904931161

6 Apr, 10am - 3pm
Privett Close, Lychpit
GARAGE / BOOT SALE
"Garage / Boot Sale - 9 Privett Close , Lychpit RG24 8FG,
Jewellery , Collectibles, Bicycles , Good Quality Varied Household Items , Bargains Galore."

8 Apr, 7:45pm
St Peter's Church Hall, Church Road (B3350), Earley Reading
BERKS GP OF HARDY PLANT SOCIETY
A talk by Hilary Newman on Climbers and wall plants.
www.berkshirehps.org.uk

8 Apr, 8:15pm
The Forge
RITA HOSKING
Rita sings original mountain roots music – soulful ballads and old time drive – with a voice that really grabs your attention, a kind of cross between the haunting delivery of Gillian Welch and the richness of Iris Dement.
01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

11 Apr, 11:30am
The Haymarket
MARTY MACDONALD'S FARM
Marty MacDonald needs your help! He's looking after his uncle's farm but Old MacDonald has left things in a mess – the animals have gone on holiday, the farmyard is topsy-turvy and the crafty crows are eating the crops in front of his eyes!
01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

12 Apr, 7:30pm
The Haymarket
THE CHRISTIANS
Tickets for The Christians are priced £21 (includes £1 booking fee).
01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

12 Apr, 7:30pm
Silchester Parish Church
BERKSHIRE BRASS IN CONCERT WITH GUEST PIANIST KEN HARRATT
"Varied programme of music for Brass (ten
instruments), including items by Rimsky-Korsakov, Mussorgsky and Butterworth
Tickets £10, to include glass of wine or soft drink.
Proceeds to organ restoration."
0118 970 0825, 0118 970 0633 or 0118 970 0450

15 Apr - 16 Apr
The Anvil
ERTH'S DINOSAUR ZOO
"Tuesday 11am and 2pm
Wednesday 11am and 2pm
Direct from Australia, Erth's Dinosaur Zoo brings awesome prehistoric creatures to the stage as you've never seen them before. "
01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

17 Apr, 8pm
Central Studio Queen Mary's College
ALAN WILLIAMS ACOUSTICALLY YOURS
Alan Williams, the lead vocalist/ guitarist of 70's glam rock icons 'The Rubettes' presents his solo tour where he will lead you through his musical life before, during and after the success years.
01256 418318 www.centralstudio.co.uk

18 Apr, 8pm
The Attic at the Railway, Winchester
MALCOLM HOLCOMBE
Tickets £10
www.railwaylive.co.uk

19 Apr, 11am - 3pm
Elizabeth Hall, Raven Road, Hook, Hampshire RG27 9HH
DOLLY'S EASTER HANDMADE AND VINTAGE FAIR
"Save the date for an Easter extravagance! This is Easter Saturday get your best bonnet ready!
Dolly's first trip to hook for a hand made and vintage fair. We have lots of unique and vintage stall holders booked and ready to dazzle you.
We will post more details on Dolly's facebook and twitter.
We are raising funds at this events for SANDS the stillbirth and neonatal charity www.uk-sands.org/
£1 for adults and children go free"
www.dollysvintage.co.uk

20 Apr - 20 Apr, 7pm - 10pm
The Ark Conference Centre in Basingstoke
INDIAN FILM AND SUPPER NIGHT
"Pelican Cancer Foundation is hosting a fundraising event, a private viewing of 2013's critically acclaimed British-Asian comedy Jadoo.
Jadoo is a colourful and engaging food-feud-and-family comedy feature film set in Leicester. It centres on two brothers, both chefs, who fall-out catastrophically and set-up rival restaurants, on opposite sides of the same road.
In an unmissable opportunity, guests will also be joined by a member of the production team who will introduce the film. In keeping with the theme of the evening, tickets also include a delicious 2-course Indian meal.
This latest fundraising event for Pelican Cancer Foundation follows December's hugely popular Christmas shopping event at The Vineyard, Stockcross which raised over £3,000 for the charity. "
01256 314 746

22 Apr, 7:30pm
The Anvil
NABUCCO
Verdi's haunting and melodic chorus of the Hebrew slaves follows the plight of the Hebrews as they are forced from their homeland into exile by the Babylonian King Nabucco.
01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

25 Apr, 7:45pm
The Anvil
BASEL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
The concert gives a rare chance to hear a live performance of John Adam's spectacular Harmonielehre.
01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

30 Apr, 8pm
The Anvil
FIFTY SHADES OF BEIGE
This jam-packed spanking new show includes learning the art of 'Grumpy Grooming', the joy of large pants, a free nagging master class (how to get your own way without him even noticing), beards for women, which style will suit you? Complimentary Anger Management workshop, middle-aged drinking: the rules, navigating the smorgasbord of worry, voluntary euthanasia vs. retirement, how to customise an unwanted pole dancing kit and a mercifully brief Zumba demonstration.
01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

10 May - 17 May, 7pm - 10pm
Tadley Common Methodist Church
TADLEY YOUTH DRAMA PRODUCTION
"Come and watch a uk premier of To The Rescue set inamerica. Refreshments available and a warm welcome awaits
Tickets are £6 and £4 and available from local churches and Helping Hands Charity Shop in Tadley and also on the door
www.tadleyyouthdrama.org.uk / 07443118432

10 May, 1:30pm - 4pm
St Peter's Church Hall, Church Road (B3350), Earley Reading
HARDY PLANT SOCIETY PLANT SALE
"Admission 50p
Good quality flower and vegetable plants on sale.
Home-made cakes, tea and coffee available.
Free car-parking."
www.berkshirehps.org.uk
0118 9700522.

14 May
Princes Hall Aldershot
OMID DJALILI LIVE
01252 329155

16 May, 7:30pm
Alton Methodist Church
NIGEL OGDEN
from the BBC Radio 2 program "The Organist Entertains"

23 May, 7pm - 12:30am
Red Lion Hotel, Basingstoke
BLACK TIE CHARITY AUCTION
"Black tie charity auction raising money for the national autistic society, 3 course dinner, wine and disco. Items for auction range from sports memrobila to local spa days, tickets are available at £25.00pp. 3run are the special guests running the auction."
7414915288

23 May
Farnham Maltings
THE RUTLES
www.farnhammaltings.com

12 Jun - 14 Jun
The Haymarket
LADIES IN RETIREMENT
"Directed by Ian Dickens and starring a fantastic cast with well-known actors from stage and screen, this taut, creepy melodrama, based on a famous murder which actually took place at the end of the last century, has become one of the most successful and most frequently performed plays in the modern repertoire.
Set in the 1880s, Ladies in Retirement guarantees an evening of Victorian thrills and suspense."
01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

14 Jun, 7pm - 11:30pm
Red Lion Hotel, Basingstoke
PRINCE AND PRINCESS CHARITY DISCO
"Charity disco to help raise money for local school Dove House, This is a family disco you will be meet and greet by a prince and princess. Tickets are available at £10.00 per adult, children under 18 £5.00 and children with autism go free.

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Sudoku

Place a number from 1 to 9 in each empty cell so that each 3x3 block, column, and full row includes each of the numbers from 1 to 9 only once. **EASY/MEDIUM/HARD**

	1		5					8
5		8	4			6		2
		6	1	3	8	7		
8					5		3	
7		3				9		4
	2		7					1
		5	8	9	7	4		
9		4			2	1		6
3					4		7	

	1	9		2		3	4	
6		3				8		7
9			6		3			4
		5				6		
3			1		5			2
7		4				1		5
	9	6		3		7	2	

5					9	1	7	
					5			4
	9			2			5	
					4	7	8	
2								9
	8	3	1					
	2			5			1	
1			6					
	4	6	7					3

Two speed crossword

Quick Clues Across

4 Pleated border (6)
8 Metal cap (7)
9 Risky (6)
10 Gifts (9)
11 Pledge (4)
13 Braid of hair (5)
14 Ill-treated (7)
16 Usefulness (7)
18 Chatter (5)
19 A Roman Emperor (4)
21 Auspicious (9)
22 Attack (6)
23 Unfold (7)
24 Less difficult (6)

Quick Clues Down

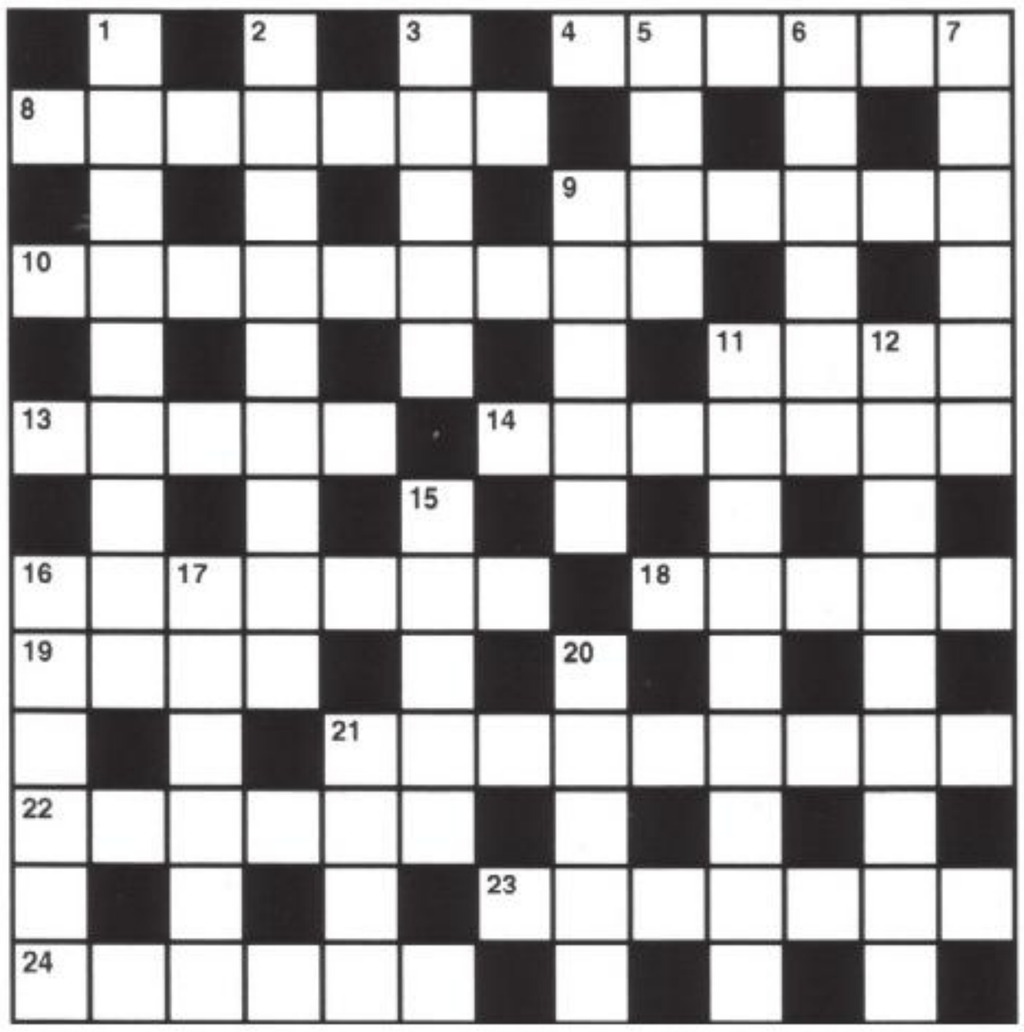
1 Low-necked (9)
2 Well-protected burrowing animal (9)
3 Killed (5)
5 Footed vases (4)
6 Quarrel (6)
7 Smoothed (6)
9 Up to (5)
11 Firearms smuggler (3,6)
12 Period of carrying in womb (9)
15 Backless seat (5)
16 Not constructed (6)
17 Flags (6)
20 War-horse (5)
21 Penalty (4)

Cryptic Clues Across

4 Several frogmen (6)
8 Meeting Constance with diplomacy (7)
9 Reverend gentleman breaks the circle (6)
10 Man with loads of work (9)
11 Gain a point? It's intoxicating (4)
13 Stays for the postscript (5)
14 Father, in tatters, an example to us all (7)
16 Two-by-two in close-up (7)
18 Inscribed in memory, by the sound of it (5)
19 Bird heard to make money (4)
21 Plagued to be leased round the beginning of May (9)
22 Wash all I have on (6)
23 Asleep? Right, before it's about and cancels everything (7)
24 It's nonsense about the lair of the animal (6)

Cryptic Clues Down

1 Later Bill has one alternative (9)
2 Kind of hat to wear on the range? (5-4)
3 Helps out many, but they're sour (5)
5 Out of work but makes a comeback in welding (4)
6 Toupee slipped sideways. What a pest! (6)
7 In this way a range of knowledge can cause weakness (6)
9 Stuff round either end of the eye for the best part (5)
11 Justified when conflict raged (9)
12 Direction not taken either by the railway (9)
15 Soundly attacked wrong-doer (5)
16 Vendor, we hear, might store 11 across (6)
17 Joined in duet (6)
20 Remains of fire for the closing months of the year (5)
21 This urban district won't change (4)



Scribble space

Last week's solutions

4	6	2	1	7	8	3	9	5
9	1	3	5	6	4	7	2	8
5	8	7	3	9	2	1	4	6
3	5	4	7	1	6	9	8	2
2	7	6	9	8	3	5	1	4
1	9	8	2	4	5	6	3	7
8	2	5	6	3	1	4	7	9
7	4	1	8	5	9	2	6	3
6	3	9	4	2	7	8	5	1

9	6	7	4	8	1	2	3	5
4	8	1	2	3	5	9	6	7
2	3	5	9	6	7	4	8	1
5	9	6	7	4	8	1	2	3
1	2	3	5	9	6	7	4	8
7	4	8	1	2	3	5	9	6
8	1	2	3	5	9	6	7	4
3	5	9	6	7	4	8	1	2
6	7	4	8	1	2	3	5	9

7	4	6	9	1	2	8	3	5
2	3	8	7	5	6	4	9	1
5	1	9	8	4	3	2	6	7
8	5	3	2	9	1	6	7	4
6	9	2	5	7	4	1	8	3
4	7	1	6	3	8	5	2	9
1	2	7	4	8	9	3	5	6
3	6	5	1	2	7	9	4	8
9	8	4	3	6	5	7	1	2

Quick Crossword

Across: 1 Fringe 7 Amateur 8 Unclasp 9 Ratio 10 Slenderly 12 Sue 13 Sees 15 Despoil 17 Else 19 Met 21 Triumphal 22 Juror 23 Tonnage 24 Pinnace 25 Zealot

Down: 1 Foursome 2 Inches 3 Grandee 4 Harry 5 Mettle 6 Trio 7 Appropriate 11 Nude 13 Slap 14 Smallest 16 Immense 18 Strong 20 Thrall 21 Trial 22 Jape

Cryptic Crossword

Across: 1 Rebels 7 Isolate 8 Contain 9 Nadir 10 Relenting 12 Ewe 13 Edam 15 Edified 17 Rear 19 Did 21 Partition 22 Moose 27 Noisome 24 Tangent 25 Anonym

Down: 1 Recorder 2 Bangle 3 Learned 4. Going 5 Landed 6 Peer 7 Indifferent 11 Ewer 13 Edit 14 Moonbeam 16 Edition 18 Abound 20 Disown 21 Pekes 22 Mite

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BHTA

To enter this competition

Just send your answer along with your name, address and telephone number to competitions@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

Or on a postcard to Competitions, Basingstoke Observer, Newspaper House, 4A Hawksworth, Didcot, Oxfordshire OX11 7HR

WIN Extreme Stunt Show Tickets..!

WHETHER you're a fan of monster trucks, motorbikes, BMX or just general mayhem, the Extreme Stunt Show Live Arena at Old Common London Road RG21 4BY is the place to be and the date to be there is Wednesday April 23rd .

Check out the monster action where the trucks Extreme and Lil' Devil compete to prove they're the best car crushing monsters in Europe. 2013 was a very busy year for them. Performing at over 150 shows during the summer meant they were in need of some long overdue TLC. The Extreme workshop has been busy over the winter making sure the trucks are ready to keep up with the grueling workout the drivers are going to put them through. Both still pulling 1500 horsepower and car-crushing to the max, these machines are primed and ready for action.

Next up, the Extreme FMX lads who love to tear it up with their death defying stunts including the can can, cliffhanger, lazy boy, kiss of death, nac nac, and superman to name a few.

Prepare to be astounded as the Extreme BMX team, show you how it's done with excessive pedal power. Check out their bunny hops, barspins, 360s, tailwhips, flairs and of course the backflip.

With performances from firm favourites who are primed and ready for take-off, the Extreme Team are ready to showcase their tricks. Two wheel driving, fire stunts and just good old-fashioned chaos to take you all the way to the extreme edge.

Advance booking tickets are availabe at discount from info@extremeeventseurope.com or on the ticket hotline: 0844 771000

Closing date:
Friday, April 18, 2014

WIN TICKETS

We have 10 family tickets each worth up to £56 to be won, and all you have to do to be in with a chance is answer one simple question:

Q: WHICH OF THESE IS THE NAME OF AN EXTREME STUNT SHOW MONSTER TRUCK: IMMENSE, EXTREME OR AWESOMENESS?

To enter more competitions like this, go online to www.basingstokeobserver.co.uk

For full terms & conditions go to www.basingstokeobserver.co.uk/about-us

Terms and Conditions: not valid with any other discount/or against tickets already purchased.

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School's out!

Star Attraction at the Winchester Science Centre

THE Winchester Science Centre, previously known as INTECH, has a full Easter holiday programme in addition to its 100 hands-on exhibits and planetarium shows.

There will be science shows full of fun and audience participation. These shows are free after admission. The planetarium will be regularly featuring two 'live' presenter-led shows plus new films about the past and future of moon landings and a children's film 'The Life of Trees'. Darth Vader and other characters from the Star Wars films will be in the Centre on the weekend of 12/13 April.

The Science Centre will have extended opening hours of 9am - 6pm Mon-Fri and 10am-6pm Sat/Sun. It will be open on the Bank Holidays too. On wet weekdays the advice is to arrive before 10:30 or after 1:30pm because of the popularity of this indoor attraction. A park and ride shuttle bus from Winchester will be operating.

For further details visit www.winchestersciencecentre.org or call 01962 863791.

School's out!

Get down to the Living Rainforest this Easter

HOW do monkeys get down the stairs?
A: They slide down the bananaster!!!

Hey, come on down to the Living Rainforest near Newbury

It's Monkey Madness this Easter School Holidays

Over the holidays there will be "free"* guided tours around the Rainforest looking at some of the amazing adaptations found in our animals, birds & plants – Come and find out how our cheeky monkeys and other animals are especially adapted to life in the rainforest.

There will be keeper led Monkey "feeding time" talks so come and meet our monkeys for an afternoon feed & find out why the Goeldi's monkey is a zoological puzzle.

Also every day there will be also be craft workshops such as;

Monkey mobiles - hang around with us to create a monkey mobile

Gangly gibbons - famous for swinging through the branches with their long arms, make your own gangly gibbon

Monkey masks - disguise yourself as your favourite primate

The Living Rainforest is situated between Reading and Newbury,

So come down this Easter, It's great whatever the weather.

For more details, visit www.livingrainforest.org

**Tours are free with entry however we do have limited spaces available on these ever-popular guided tours.*

MANYDOWN FAMILY FUN
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Open daily 29th March - 21st April 2014
Frolicking Fun this Easter!
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• Lamb bottle-feeding demonstrations
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NEW Under 3's Play Area
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• Tractor Tyre Mountain • Adventure Play
Visit - www.manydownfamilyfun.co.uk
for more details, call 01256 220 398 or
Find us on Facebook
Open daily 10am - 4pm
Manydown Family Fun, Scrapps Hill Farm,
550 Worting Road, Basingstoke RG23 8PU
Activities and events are weather dependent and subject to change without notice.

Martons

Berkshire & North Hampshire

April

Tuesday 8th April
Portsmouth and Southsea £ PRICE BUSTER
Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Thursday 10th April
London Museums or The London Eye
£ PRICE BUSTER
Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Tuesday 15th April
The Cotswolds in Spring and Moreton-in-Marsh Market £ PRICE BUSTER
Route 'A' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Thursday 17th April
Marwell Wildlife Park or shopping in Fareham
£ PRICE BUSTER
Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

May

Saturday 3rd May
Lymington Market and the New Forest
£ PRICE BUSTER
Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Saturday 17th May
Weymouth
Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £20.00 - Child £13.50

Saturday 31st May
The Thames Traveller £ PRICE BUSTER
Route 'A' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

June

Tuesday 3rd June
Brighton £ PRICE BUSTER
Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Thursday 5th June
Bournemouth £ PRICE BUSTER
Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Sunday 15th June
Swansea and the 21st Festival of Transport on Father's Day
Route 'A' - Adult & OAP £22.50 - Child £15.00

Saturday 28th June
Sanders Garden World & Burnham-on-Sea
Route 'A' - Adult & OAP £20.00 - Child £13.50

July

Saturday 12th July
Aylesbury and The Vale, The Dunstable Downs and The Great Train Robbery £ PRICE BUSTER
Route 'A' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Sunday 27th July
Bognor or Butlins £ PRICE BUSTER
Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Tuesday 29th July
Cutty Sark and Greenwich Park
£ PRICE BUSTER
Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Thursday 31st July
Oxford or Blenheim Palace £ PRICE BUSTER
Route 'A' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

August

Saturday 2nd August
The Kentish Klipper - Sevenoaks and Royal Tunbridge Wells
Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £20.00 - Child £13.50

Tuesday 5th August
Gosport Market & Lee-on-the-Solent
£ PRICE BUSTER
Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Thursday 7th August
Mystery Seaside Excursion £ PRICE BUSTER
Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Tuesday 12th August
Stewarts Garden Centre and Christchurch
£ PRICE BUSTER
Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Thursday 14th August
Hampton Court Palace or Kingston-upon-Thames £ PRICE BUSTER
Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Saturday 16th August
Eastbourne including Air Show
Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £20.00 - Child £13.50

Tuesday 19th August
Portsmouth World War One Commemorative Event or Southsea £ PRICE BUSTER
Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Thursday 21st August
Corfe Castle and Swanage £ PRICE BUSTER
Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Wednesday 27th August
Ringwood Market and Romsey £ PRICE BUSTER
Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Sunday 31st August
Bournemouth including Air Show
£ PRICE BUSTER
Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

September
Saturday 13th September
The Fosse Way Flyer
Route 'A' - Adult & OAP £22.50 - Child £15.00

Saturday 27th September
Wimborne Market and Poole Quay
£ PRICE BUSTER
Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

October

Saturday 11th October
Warwick Castle and Stratford-upon-Avon
Route 'A' - Adult & OAP £20.00 - Child £15.00

Saturday 25th October
Lymington and New Forest Drive
£ PRICE BUSTER
Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Tuesday 28th October
Mystery Tour £ PRICE BUSTER
Route 'A' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Thursday 30th October
Notcutts Garden Centre and Guildford
£ PRICE BUSTER
Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

November

Saturday 8th November
Westfield Christmas Shopping £ PRICE BUSTER
Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Saturday 22nd November
Christmas in London (including Winter Wonderland - Hyde Park) £ PRICE BUSTER
Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Saturday 29th November
Bath Christmas Market
Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £20.00 - Child £13.50

December

Saturday 6th December
Brugge Christmas Market
Please remember your passport! (Price includes return Eurotunnel crossings)
Route 'X' - £42.50 per person – (no child reduction)

Sunday 14th December
London Christmas Shopping and Lights
£ PRICE BUSTER
Route 'B' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Excursion bookings can be made at:

Toucan Travel Ltd. Unit 18, Chineham Shopping Centre, Basingstoke.
(Debit and credit cards accepted)
Tel: 01256 356631

Toucan Travel Ltd. 18a Mulfords Hill, Tadley.
(Debit and credit cards accepted)
Tel: 0118 981 3238

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A few hints on vehicle maintenance as we head towards summer

Keep your car looking great

ROAD safety charity the IAM (Institute of Advanced Motorists) is offering weekly motoring tips to drivers from Britain's top advanced driver, Peter Rodger.

By **Andy Allans**

This week we advise drivers on how to prime their cars properly for the warmer weather.

The IAM recommends seven ways to prepare your car:

• Now is a good time to give your car a spring clean. Salt is corrosive and will cause rusting if left on the bodywork. If possible take your car to a car wash that specialises in under-car cleaning to get rid of every trace.

• The UK pollen season can be pretty miserable for hayfever sufferers, so replacing your car's pollen filter annually is a vital investment. Keeping your air-conditioning well maintained will help as well.

• Servicing your air-con will also help your car smell better. If it smells stale when you turn the heating on, it could well be a sign that mould is building up in your condenser.

• Flies will soon be out in force so be sure to refill your washer fluid. Habitually washing the windscreen and headlamps when you stop for fuel is also important as windscreen wipers won't get rid of all the fly debris.

• Old wiper blades are not only noisy, they can leave marks on the windscreen, so remember to replace them regularly. Clean them regularly to avoid damaging your windscreen.

• After a pot-holed winter, check your wheel and tyre alignment. Misaligned tyres wear out more quickly.

• Anti-freeze contains corrosion inhibitors so you should keep your car topped up all year round - going without could lead to expensive engine damage.

Mr Rodger said: "After a long winter of wear and tear from snow, salt and pot-holes, your car needs attention.

"Preparing for the spring and making checks now can save you a lot of money in the long run."

• *Wheel alignment (inset) is just one of the ways to take care of your car*

DVLA
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency

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Dacia Logan MCV = from **£6,995***

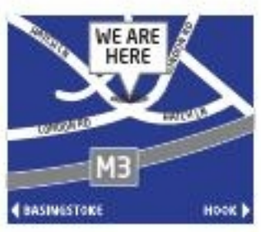
Dacia Sandero Stepway = from **£8,395***

Dacia Duster = from **£9,495***

You do the maths

Sandero shown is Lauréate 1.2 16V 75 from £7,995. Logan MCV shown is a Lauréate 1.2 16V 75 from £8,995.
Duster shown is Lauréate dCi 110 4x2 from £13,495. Cars shown have optional metallic paint, available at an additional £495.

DACIA GROUPE RENAULT



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WWW.MARTINS.UK.COM/DACIA

The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the Dacia range are: Urban 27.2 (10.4)-65.7 (4.3); Extra Urban 40.3 (7)-80.7 (3.5); Combined 35.3 (8)-74.3 (3.8). The official CO_2 emissions for the range are 185-99g/km. EU Directive and Regulation 692/2008 test environment figures. Fuel consumption and CO_2 may vary according to driving styles, road conditions and other factors.

*Prices shown include delivery to dealer, number plates, 20% VAT, 12-month Government road fund licence and £55 first registration fee. Prices shown are Manufacturer's Recommended Retail Prices, which apply to new Dacia vehicles when ordered by 30 June 2014.

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Available on selected models only, at participating Retailers. Finance subject to status. Terms and Conditions apply. Applicants must be 18 or over. Finance supplied by Vauxhall Finance, PO Box 6666, Cardiff, CF15 7YT. Offer will apply to private individuals, Vauxhall Partners and small businesses 1- 24 (purchase only, excluding B2B supported units). All other customers are excluded. **Vauxhall Deposit Contributions vary and exclude certain models. Corsa Excite excluded from Vauxhall Deposit Contribution. Refer to www.vauxhall.co.uk/offers or contact your local Vauxhall Retailer for details. ‡First year insurance offer available on Corsa models (excluding Expression, S, Sting, Design and VXR). The offer will cover the full premium for drivers aged between 21-75 (motor policy only). Drivers must have held a valid full UK licence for a minimum of 1 year. Only available through Vauxhall Insurance. Policies are underwritten by Ageas Insurance Ltd. Other insurance specific Terms and Conditions apply. Vauxhall Lifetime Warranty covers lifetime ownership of first registered keeper, 100,000 mile limit. Terms and Conditions apply. Offers available on orders or registrations between 2 April and 1 July 2014. We can introduce you to a finance provider, commission may be received. #Official EU-regulated test data are provided for comparison purposes and actual performance will depend on driving style, road conditions and other non-technical factors.

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To advertise in the Motor Services section, call **01235 511700** or email **autoweekly@basingstokeobserver.co.uk**

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Recruitment

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Taylor Newspapers is looking for a news reporter to work on its publications.

Applicants must be dynamic and motivated, with NCTJ-accreditation, 100wpm shorthand and excellent writing ability.

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To apply, send a CV and covering letter to news editor James Booker at jamesb@taylornewspapers.co.uk

Taylor Newspapers Ltd

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Email your CV, a covering letter and some examples of your work to peter@taylornewspapers.co.uk

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PRAM, Nine in One travel system, £280, 07952395252

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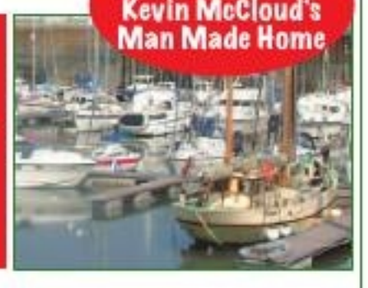

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SUSAN 29 green eyes, dark hair, slim, looking for Mr tall dark and handsome to take me out, enjoy adult times without complications just fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 410957**

JANE pretty size 12, loves going out socialising, countryside, meals out, looking for no strings fun, nothing heavy, give me a call if you are seeking similar. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 410579**

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LAURA happy size 12-14, attractive, loves shopping, gym, music, clubbing, eating in/out, looking for sincere honest male looking for more than just good fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 410713**

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KAREN very nice looking mature busty size 14 blonde who loves life, spending time in my home abroad and having fun, seeking similar mature gent for quality times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 410477**

ANNE happy go lucky lady who loves wining/dining, affectionate, honest, sincere and down to earth, looking for similar qualities in companion, if that's you pls call. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 410291**

SHARON young single mum slim, blue eyes, attractive, likes nights in/out, WLTM kind male/dad to enjoy dates, chats, hopefully leading to more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 410279**

LUCY Asian origin, 39yr single mum, loyal, loving, fit, romantic, honest, genuine, looking for older gent to romance, look after and fall in love with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 409713**

CATHY happy independent female looking for her soul mate, someone to spend quality time but who also likes their own space. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 409909**

ANNA, busty mature lady seeks no strings discreet meetings with male any age or location **Tel No: 0905 002 1956 Box 366019**

VANESSA 32yrs single mum, honest, loving, kind hearted, been hurt in the past enjoys music, reading etc, WLTM my very special Mr Right. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 409899**

MARIE slim attractive fun brunette, looking for good times with exciting broadminded male. Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 409707**

NINA, black beauty, looking for discreet adult times with man any age. **Tel: 0905 002 1957 Box 409901**

CLAIRE young 39 slim size 10, pretty, outgoing, seeks similar spontaneous male for nights in/out and fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 409417**

man seeking

ATTRACTIVE 35yr old male, seeks lady for fun times, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 409769**

WHITE gent 58, fun, good looking, seeks lady friend, any age. London. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 353301**

NEGLECTED male seeks female for daytime chats, coffee, lunches and discreet adult passion. Age/status unimportant, ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 406805**

ATTRACTIVE ex model, 42 seeing regular daytime fun, age/race/looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 379963**

DAVE genuine guy, 6ft, black hair, blue eyes, medium build, likes sports, gardening, music, seeks female with GSOH and genuine. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 388372**

OLDER woman 65 plus wanted by younger, tall male with OHAC and GSOH, hardworking, self sufficient for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 405055**

PETER 66, 5ft 9ins, fair hair, blue eyes, medium build, likes countryside, seaside, animals, nights in, seeks female for LTR. Any age/status. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 410723**

BERNARD 63, brown hair/eyes, seeking lady for soul mate, romance and TLC. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 409883**

RELIABLE black male, 50, 5ft 10ins, outgoing, funny, fit, seeks honest female wanting true love and happiness. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 407903**

MID 50's XL retired male, own car, accommodation, honest, caring, loving, romantic, loves animals, music, outdoor life seeks someone to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 406601**

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Sheppard to stay as Bison reach play-off semi-finals

BASINGSTOKE Bison booked their place in the English Ice Hockey Premier League semi-finals at the weekend, with 2-0 and 6-2 wins over the Sheffield Steeldogs.

The first leg saw Bison netminder Dean Skinns make 26 saves during the match at Sheffield, with two goals from Ciaran Long in the second period sealing the win.

Sunday's match on home ice was a more interesting affair, as Tomas Karpov opened the scoring less than five minutes in before the Steeldogs replied moments later through Greg Wood.

But Bison were soon able to pull away, with two goals from Joe Rand, Andy Melachrino and Cameron Wynn which put the hosts 6-1 ahead, before a late consolation shot from Edgars Bebris reduced the deficit slightly.

By **Adam Flinn**
news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

Bison will now head to the finals in Coventry this weekend, with their semi-final opponents yet to be announced.

Off the ice, Bison player-coach Doug Sheppard has signed a multi-year contract to stay on at the club as player/coach and director of hockey.

Sheppard took over at the Basingstoke Arena in 2012, leading the team to their first silverware in 14 years by winning the English Premier League Cup last month.

He said: "I'm really happy to be committing my future to the Bison. John (Neville, Bison managing director) and I have a great relationship and we will continue to take things forward.

"The team I put on the ice this year has been incredible to play with and to coach, and I'm hoping to re-sign as many of them as possible.

"I started my career in Basingstoke and I'd like to end it here too. I realise that time is catching up with my playing career, but I'm really looking forward to continued success with the Bison.

"My involvement for many years to come is everything I wish for locally, and I really hope to benefit the team in future years. My role as director of hockey is more and more important to me as my playing career winds down."

• Player/coach Doug Sheppard will stay on at Bison (Picture by Grant King)

DJS secure championship cup

THERE were 160 spectators at the Winklebury Football Complex on Saturday evening to see DJS Telecoms win the Basingstoke B Cup against Hampshire Irons for the Division Two Championship.

Tom Chant hit the post for the Irons in the second minute with keeper Warren Hopkins well beaten, but it was DJS who took the lead in the 11th minute through Lee Neal.

And Allan Morgan volleyed home in spectacular fashion from 25 yards just after the hour mark to double DJS' lead.

Jay Greene grabbed a scrappy late consolation for the Irons, but it was too little too late as DJS held on for glory.

• DJS celebrate their win on Saturday night

Top-six results for Rob

ROB Collard had a successful start to the British Touring Car season on Sunday, as he finished in the top-six in all three races.

Collard finished sixth in the opening two races, before starting from pole position for the final race of the day and running in second behind team-mate Colin Turkington.

But despite losing places to Matt Neal and Jason Plato in the final few laps, Collard hung on to finish fourth.

Fellow North Hampshire driver Nick Foster had a tougher weekend, but was still able to score good points.

He was 11th in the first race but moved up the order to come home fifth in race two, in what was his best ever result at the Kent circuit.

Foster started alongside Collard on the front row for the final race, but he was given a drive-through penalty for lining up on the grid out of position, and eventually finished 19th.

After the opening round, Collard is sixth in the standings with 34 points, while Foster is ninth with 16 points.

Sport Bites

'Stoke battling for league survival

BASINGSTOKE RFC are in a battle for National League 3 London and South East survival following a 41-24 loss to Barnes on Saturday, and are just one point above the relegation zone.

Two tries from Gavin Dampies and another from Jobi Kochanowski were not enough for 'Stoke, who are now battling with Barnes over the crucial 11th-place spot in the league.

'Stoke have just two games remaining to try and stay up, as they face fourth-placed Tonbridge Juddians on Saturday before hosting third-placed East Grinstead the following week.

Calleva face New Inn in cup final

TADLEY Calleva A take on New Inn in the Final of the Basingstoke A Cup this Saturday, with kick off at Winklebury at 6.30pm.

New Inn start as favourites after winning the North Hants Intermediate Cup earlier this season, and with just one defeat in the Basingstoke and District Saturday League Premier Division.

Wintney on form, Jam Boys struggle

HARTLEY Wintney returned to winning ways in the Combined Counties Premier league on Tuesday night, as they beat Chessington and Hook United 4-2.

It follows on from a 1-0 loss on Saturday to Hanworth Villa, and moves The Row into eighth position in the league standings.

They return to action tonight against Frimley Green, before facing Wembley on Saturday and Hanworth Villa again on Tuesday.

Elsewhere on Tuesday evening, Whitchurch United were thrashed 4-0 by Fareham Town, following on from their 1-0 loss against Totton and Eling on Saturday.

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Inside: Sheppard to stay as Bison reach play-off semi-finals | Wintney on form, Jam Boys struggle | Top-six results for Rob

Basingstoke halt winless slump with victory over Dorchester

DOUBLE DELIGHT FOR DRAGONS' DEBUTANT

JASON Bristow was delighted with his new striking duo as Basingstoke defeated Dorchester 2-1 at the Camrose on Saturday.

By **James Booker**
news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

Liam Enver-Marum struck an impressive brace on his debut, including an injury-time strike to grab a dramatic win for the Dragons.

And Bristow was pleased with the link-up play between his weekend hero and fellow new frontman Nicholas Bignall.

"Liam scored two very good goals, and put in a really good all-round performance," said Bristow.

"And Nicholas proved a real handful as well – to be fair to the pair they struck up an instant relationship and worked very well together, and that only bodes well for us."

Despite the win, which lifted the Dragons to 13th in the Skrill South, the manner of victory might have been more comfortable, with the boss admitting his side should have been 'three or four' to the good by half-time.

The front two's impressive displays will add to the competition for places in the team, although Bristow did say he will be forced to rotate his squad with the hectic schedule facing them between now and the end of the season.

"You've got to be on top of your game to be playing week in, week out," he said. "That's where we want to be at. And the two strikers came in and caused problems for the opposition.

"We've got nine games in 26 days now. I'm sure everyone will get their opportunity on the pitch and it's up to them to take it."

Basingstoke are in action tonight against Hayes and Yeading who, despite their lowly league position of 19th, have put together a stubborn unbeaten run in recent weeks as they look to avoid the drop.

"They're on a good run of form, but they still need points on board to ensure their safety, so it's going to be a very tough game," added Bristow.

Basingstoke Town 2
Dorchester Town 1

· Basingstoke's players surround Liam Enver-Marum after the striker secured an injury-time win against Dorchester (Picture by Les Chase)

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